



# Hawai'i's Early Childhood Comprehensive System



# Overview

**O**ur mission is to *promote the optimal health, development, and well-being of Hawai'i's young children and their families through supporting enhanced collaboration, improved integration, and the provision of culturally responsive services for all island communities.*

Hawai'i's Early Childhood Comprehensive System (ECCS) is an initiative that began in 2003 with a grant to the Hawai'i Department of Health from the federal Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the Human Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). This report presents a summary of the ECCS accomplishments and the status of Hawai'i's keiki that aligns with the ECCS vision, which states that *all of Hawai'i's young children will have safe and supportive environments, will be healthy, and will be ready to succeed.* This report also presents data for the indicators used to monitor the ECCS's progress toward achieving each aspect of its vision. Regarding environments and health, the report presents data from two points in time: in 2002 before the ECCS initiative began, and in 2005 to 2008, depending upon the most recent data available. Regarding success, the report presents only the most recent data (2006–2008) because there is no 2002 data available for these indicators.

The ECCS has fostered community collaboration to develop a strategic plan for a more comprehensive system of care for Hawai'i's young children. The fulfillment of this goal has led to many achievements, including the following:

- The completion of a comprehensive needs assessment that focused on children's health, safety, and readiness. With parent and provider focus groups from six island communities, ECCS conducted needs-assessment activities statewide.

- The convening of an ECCS Kick Off Conference, which more than 100 stakeholders from the early childhood community attended.
- The development of collaborative partnerships that brought to Hawai'i national speakers on early childhood issues. National speakers included Nina Sazer O'Donnell, on the Family, Friend, and Neighbor Program; and Drs. Rob Corso and Lise Fox, Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (CSEFEL), on challenging behaviors and the need to promote children's positive social and emotional development.
- The granting of CSEFEL technical assistance and training to Hawai'i, which was chosen as one of eight states for the award. This award helped to develop the infrastructure for young children's social and emotional development and supported professional development by providing training on the Pyramid Model and practical strategies on working with children's challenging behaviors.
- The establishment of Hawai'i as a State Partnership for Prevention State from ZERO TO THREE, which brought training on preventing child abuse and neglect to our state.
- The Center for the Study of Social Policy's utilization of the Strengthening Families National Network to bring together the early childhood and the child abuse and neglect prevention communities to work on protective factors that strengthen Hawai'i's families and prevent abuse and neglect.
- In collaboration with the Department of Health's Mental Health Transformation State Incentive Grant, the conducting of an Early Childhood Mental Health Leadership Summit that brought together leaders from the early childhood and mental health communities.
- The partnering of various community groups to conduct a Strengthening Families Day—Pinwheels for Prevention/Winds of Change Event for children and families, which publicized Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Day of the Young Child.
- The establishment of a project at the Weinberg Village Waimanalo to study the needs of young children and their families in transitional shelters.
- The development of a Hawai'i Early Childhood Comprehensive System website to broadly disseminate information on project activities, reports, indicator data, and other items.



## VISION: All of Hawai'i's Young Children Will Have Safe and Supportive Environments

Injury is one of the leading causes of disability and death for Hawai'i's children. Preventing unnecessary accidents, injuries, and deaths is crucial to keeping our children safe.

Children are more likely to thrive when they live in financially self-sufficient families. Children living in poverty and low-income families are at a higher risk for developing health problems, performing poorly at school, repeating a grade, engaging in risky or delinquent behaviors, and dropping out of high school than are children living in economically secure situations.

When children must be removed from their homes to ensure their safety, permanency-planning efforts focus either on returning them to their homes as soon as is safely possible or on placing them with another permanent family. Research has shown the importance of stable living environments for children.<sup>1</sup>



DESIRED OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	HAWAI'I DATA	
		2002	2005–2008
Children are safe from unintentional injuries in their homes and communities.	Number of deaths of children between the ages of 1–5 due to unintentional injuries. <sup>2,3</sup>	4	6
Children are safe from intentional injuries and child abuse or neglect in their homes and communities.	Number of confirmed, unduplicated reports of child abuse and neglect of children ages 0–5. <sup>4,5</sup>	1,531	930
Families are financially self-sufficient.	Percent of Hawai'i's children under age 5 living below the poverty level. <sup>6,7</sup>	15%	11%
	Number and percent of Hawai'i's children under age 6 who had no parent in the work force. <sup>8,9</sup>	11,000 (12%)	10,000 (10%)
Children have permanent homes.	Number and percent of children age 5 and under in foster care. <sup>10,11</sup>	1,877 (39%)	1,535 (35%)



## VISION: All of Hawai'i's Young Children Will Be Healthy

Prenatal medical care is important for the health of both the infant and the mother. Mothers who receive late or no prenatal care are more likely to have babies with health problems. Mothers who do not receive prenatal care are three times more likely to give birth to a low-weight baby, and their child is at a greater risk of neonatal death.

Children function best when they receive preventative and regular health care. Healthy children are more likely to be healthy as adults.

The environment in which children live can affect their well-being. Homeless children often suffer from conditions like poor nutrition, developmental delays, impaired health, and emotional stress with negative long-term effects that continue into adulthood, such as chronic health problems and a shortened life expectancy.

DESIRED OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	HAWAI'I DATA	
		2002	2005–2008
Children are born healthy.	Percent of preterm births (less than 37 weeks gestation). <sup>12,13</sup>	14%	12%
	Percent of children under age 3 who experience a developmental delay or physical impairment. <sup>14</sup>	4%	4%
Expectant mothers have adequate prenatal care and preparation for parenthood.	Percent of live births to mothers receiving late or no prenatal care. <sup>12,15</sup>	4%	4%
	Percent of live births to mothers receiving no first-trimester care. <sup>12,15</sup>	16%	19%
	Percent of new mothers who reported smoking during the last 3 months of pregnancy. <sup>16,17</sup>	8%	9%
	Percent of new mothers who reported drinking alcohol during the last 3 months of pregnancy. <sup>16,17</sup>	4%	6%
	Percent of new mothers who reported using illegal drugs during pregnancy. <sup>16,17</sup>	2%	3%
Children have access to and receive preventive and regular health care.	Percent of children fully immunized by age 2. <sup>18,19</sup>	78%	82%
	Percent of uninsured children ages 0–5. <sup>20</sup>	4%	3%
Children live in healthy environments.	Percent of children under age 3, including those at environmental risk, receiving early intervention services. <sup>14</sup>	9%	8%
	Number of children birth to age 5 receiving homeless shelter services. <sup>21</sup>	n/a	986
	Number of children birth to age 5 receiving homeless outreach services. <sup>21</sup>	n/a	526



## VISION: All of Hawai'i's Young Children Will Be Ready to Succeed

Children can flourish in a variety of settings (e.g., home and center-based), but they have a better chance to succeed when their early environments are nurturing, safe, and stimulating.

The quality of early childhood care is crucial because high-quality settings promote better outcomes for children. Better-qualified care providers and teachers are more knowledgeable about child development and effective instruction. As a result these care providers and teachers tend to provide a better overall environment, which enhances children's outcomes.

There is little systematic information about the quality of early childhood settings in Hawai'i. However, one indicator of quality for child care centers is the attainment of voluntary accreditation standards.

Children's readiness for school and beyond depends not only upon the support they receive from their families, but upon the support they receive from the early education and care system, K-12 school system, and the community in which they live.

DESIRED OUTCOMES	INDICATORS	HAWAI'I DATA
		2006–2008
Children are ready to succeed in school.	Percent of Department of Education (DOE) kindergarten classes that have at least three-quarters of their entering students consistently displaying the skills and characteristics for success in school life. <sup>22</sup>	8%
	Percent and number of DOE elementary schools providing transition to kindergarten activities for entering students. <sup>22</sup>	34% (60)
Families have access to affordable early childhood programs and services.	Average annual cost of center-based care for: <sup>23</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infants</li> <li>• Children 1–2 years</li> <li>• Children 3–4 years</li> </ul>	\$11,268 \$9,876 \$6,504
	Average annual cost for licensed family child care homes: <sup>23</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Infants</li> <li>• Children 1–2 years</li> <li>• Children 3–4 years</li> </ul>	\$6,744 \$6,684 \$6,624
Children have access to quality early childhood education programs.	Percent of center-based teaching staff having: <sup>24</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bachelor's degree or higher</li> <li>• An associate's degree</li> <li>• A high school diploma</li> <li>• Unknown</li> </ul>	31% 19% 36% 15%
	Percent of center-based teaching staff having: <sup>24</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A bachelor's degree in Early Childhood or Child Development</li> <li>• An associate's degree in Early Childhood or Child Development</li> </ul>	5% 11%
	Among the 1,073 licensed child care facilities in Hawai'i, there is a: <sup>25</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Total capacity of</li> <li>• Desired capacity of</li> <li>• Enrollment of</li> </ul>	31,999 30,144 28,697
	Percent of licensed child care centers that are: <sup>26</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationally and regionally accredited (NAEYC, NECAP, WASC/HAIS)</li> <li>• Seeking NAEYC or NECPA accreditation</li> <li>• In the process of aligning their programs with the Hawai'i Preschool Content Standards to receive quality incentive payments from the Department of Human Services</li> </ul>	26% 25% 12%

# Collaborators & Work Teams



**Early Childhood Positive Behavior Support Team**, an interdisciplinary group, partners with Kamehameha Schools and the Center on the Social and Emotional Foundations for Early Learning to improve infrastructures for the social and emotional outcomes of children and to support the professional development of early childhood practitioners who work with children's challenging behaviors.



**Strengthening Families Hawai'i Leadership Team** is a public-private partnership that works with the Center for the Study of Social Policy's Strengthening Family National Network to reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect by promoting the use of five protective factors in families: parental resilience; social connections; knowledge of parenting and child development; concrete support in times of need; children's social and emotional development.

**ECCS Strategic Management Team**, the advisory group of public-private partners, provides oversight of the ECCS grant implementation and direction.

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